

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 043264

11

ORIGIN ARA-02

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-01 /004 R

66610

DRAFTED BY: ARA/CEN/CR:JGSULLIVAN:HLB

APPROVED BY: ARA/CEN-DLAZAR

EUR/CE:BLFLATIN (DRAFT)

----- 074269

R 261816Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

UNCLAS STATE 043264

FOLLOWING REPEAT BERN 00849 ACTION SECSTATE 24 FEB

QUOTE

UNCLAS BERN 0849

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, PINT, SZ

SUBJECT: PRESS ON CIA CONNECTION WITH VESCO AND IOS

1. TODAY'S HERLAND TRIBUNE CARRIES AP ITEM DATELINED WASHINGTON, FEB 23, HEADLINED "CIA AGENT ASKS SWISS TO RELEASE VESCO." ASSUME ITEM AVAILALE TO DEPARTMENT. SAME AP ITEM IS CARRIED BY TRIBUNE DE GENEVE HEADLINED "INTERVENTION OF THE CIA IN THE AFFAIRS OF GENEVA JUSTICE?" HEADLINE ALSO STATES THAT, ACCORDING TO A "TOP SECRET" DOCUMENT, A CIA AGENT IN SWITZERLAND AT THE REQUEST OF JOHN MITCHELL FACILITATED RELEASE OF ROBERT VESCO. IN ADDITION TO RUNNING THE AP ITEM, TRIBUNE DE GENEVE ALSO SPECULATES THAT CIA MAY HAVE COME TO VESCO'S ASSISTANCE BECAUSE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES MAY HAVE PUSHED CORNFELD TO SELL IOS TO VESCO. CONDENSED VERSION AP STORY ATTRIBUTED TO AFP APPEARED IN JOURNAL DE GENEVE. STORY HAS NOT YET APPEARED IN GERMAN LANGUAGE PRESS. 24 HEURES WHICH, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, WAS HIGHLY SATIRICAL
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 043264

CONCERNING AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE DOMINICK'S ALLEGED REMARKS

CONCERNING OVERFLIGHTS, CARRIES FOLLOWING EDITORIAL BY THEO BOUCHAT: "CIA IN SWITZERLAND, WHERE IS THE TRUTH? DID THE CIA (THE AMERICAN SECRET SERVICE) REALLY INTERVENE IN BERN TO HAVE THE AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE ROBERT VESCO FREED WHEN HE WAS ARRESTED NOV 31, '71 IN GENEVA AND ACCUSED OF SEVERAL FINANCIAL MISDEMEANORS RELATED TO THE DIFFICULTIES OF IOS, THE GIANT MUTUAL FUND?

THE AMERICAN AGENCY, ASSOCIATED PRESS, BELIEVES IT IS ABLE TO CONFIRM THIS, THIS WEEKEND, ON THE BASIS OF A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT WRITTEN BY A CIA AGENT REFERRING TO AN APPROACH MADE TO MR HANS WLDER, THE THEN ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE CONFEDERATION.

NEVERTHELESS A DOUBT EXISTS THE DOUBT IS NOT ABOUT THE APPROACH ITSELF, WHICH IS AN ACKNOWLEDGED FACT, BUT THE DOUBT CONCERNS WHO MADE THE APPROACH. ASKED YESTERDAY BY 24 HEURES, MR. HANS WLADER CONFIRMED THAT HE RECEIVED A TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES, BUT HE DENIED ANY CONTACT WITH THE CIA.

HIS STATEMENT SUPPORTS ESSENTIALLY THE INFORMATION RECEIVED BY THE CANADIAN, ROBERT HUTCHISON WHO, AFTER TWO YEARS OF RESEARCH, MADE THE MOST COMPLETE INVESTIGATION PUBLISHED TO DATE CONCERNING ROBERT VESCO'S ROLE IN THE IOS AFFAIR.

RIGHT AFTER THE ARREST OF VESCO, ACCORDING TO HUTCHISON, ONE OF HIS AIDES, NAMED HARRY SEARS, AN INFLUENTIAL REPUBLICAN FROM NEW JERSEY, WHO WAS BOTH A FRIEND OF VESCO AND OF JOHN MITCHELL, THEN MINISTER OF JUSTICE, TELEPHONED MITCHELL. MITCHELL TELEPHONED RICHARD VINE, COUNSELOR OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY IN BERN, AND ASKED HIM TO USE ALL THE PRESSURE POSSIBLE WITH THE SWISS AUTHORITIES TO HAVE VESCO IMMEDIATELY RELEASED. WHY SO MUCH PRESSURE? BECAUSE VESCO HAD BEEN VERY "GENEROUS" TO THE REPUBLICAN PARTY OF RICHARD NIXON, AND HELPING HIM TO GET OUT OF PRISON WAS THE LEAST OF SERVICES WHICH COULD BE RENDERED TO HIM.

IT WAS THEN THAT THE APPROACH TO HANS WALDER WAS MADE.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 043264

WHO MADE THE APPROACH? DID VINE MAKE IT, OR A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CIA ATTACHED TO THE EMBASSY? MR. WALDER DOESN'T REMEMBER THE NAME OF THE PERSON WHO SPOKE TO HIM. HE SIMPLY REMEMBERS HAVING SAID "THIS IS NOT WITHIN MY COMPETENCE BUT IS A MATTER FOR GENEVA JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES."

THE NEXT DAY VESCO AND TWO OF HIS ACCOMPLICES, ONE OF WHOM WAS SWISS, WERE FREED ON BAIL. DID THE EMBASSY INTERVENE

DIRECTLY WITH THE GENEVA JUDICIAL AUTHORITIES? THERE IS NOTHING TO SUPPORT THIS.

VINE AND THE MYSTERIOUS AGENT OF THE CIA, COULDN'T THEY BE THE SAME PERSON? THAT'S POSSIBLE. IN ANY CASE, IT WAS TO VINE THAT A REPRESENTATIVE OF IOS, MONSIEUR KING, WAS GIVEN THE RESPONSIBILITY TO TURN OVER A PACKAGE A LITTLE WHILE LATER. IN HIS FIRST TESTIMONY, MONSIEUR KING STATED THAT THE PACKAGE CONTAINED \$20,000 FOR SERVICES RENDERED, BUT HE RETRACTED THIS STATEMENT AND AFFIRMED THAT THE PACKAGE DIDN'T CONTAIN ANYTHING OTHER THAN DOCUMENTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT VINE TO BETTER PLEAD THE CASE OF VESCO, WHO WAS ALREADY OUT OF JAIL, WITH SWISS AUTHORITIES. ASKED IN THE UNITED STATES BY A COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY, VINE (WHO BY THE WAY DOES NOT APPEAR IN THE "WHO'S WHO OF CIA) DENIED HAVING RECEIVED ANY MONEY.

ACTUALLY THE EXACT IDENTITY OF THE PERSON WHO INTERVENED WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DOESN'T MEAN VERY MUCH. IT'S THE APPROACH ITSELF WHICH REVEALS AMERICAN METHODS. IF IT IS NORMAL THAT A COUNTRY CONCERNS ITSELF THROUGH THE EMBASSY ABOUT THE SITUATION OF ITS CITIZENS ABROAD, THIS SORT OF AMERICAN PRESSURE HAS NOTHING IN COMMON WITH DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE.

AS TO THE ROLE OF THE CIA IN SWITZERLAND, CIRCLES WHICH ARE INITIATED DON'T TRY TO HIDE THINGS. THEY ARE CERTAIN THAT THE AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE AGENCY MAINTAINS SEVERAL AGENTS ON SWISS SOIL. THEIR ACTIVITIES, IT IS SAID, ARE LESS CONCERNED WITH SWITZERLAND ITSELF THAN WITH THE NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES OF FOREIGN PERSONALITIES, OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, ETC.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 043264

SWISS INTELLIGENCE SERVICES (PRINCIPALLY MILITARY) ARE IN CONTACT WITH THEIR FOREIGN "COLLEAGUES" AND, IN PARTICULAR, AMERICANS. SINCE THE FAMOUS DUBOIS AFFAIR, THESE CONTACTS ARE NO LONGER WITH THE ATTORNEY GENERAL BUT WITH THE CHIEF OF FEDERAL POLICE WHO IS ALSO THE CHIEF OF THE "SECURITY DIVISION" OF THE GENERAL STAFF.

CERTAIN PEOPLE WHO ARE WELL PLACED TO KNOW THE RECORD PERIODICALLY ARE CONCERNED AT THE "DEPENDENCE" OF INTELLIGENCE SERVICES OF SWITZERLAND ON WESTERN SERVICES, A "DEPENDENCE" WHICH THE TWO MIDDLE EAST WARS ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE MADE EVIDENT.

WHEN IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT AVAILABLE INTELLIGENCE CONSTITUTES THE BASIS OF POLITICAL DECISIONS WHICH FOLLOW

FROM THAT INFORMATION, ONE CAN UNDERSTAND THE CONCERNS
WHICH CERTAIN PEOPLE HAVE, BUT IT WOULD BE UTOPIAN TO BELIEVE
THAT THE VESCO AFFAIR COULD INITIATE A DEBATE ON THIS MATTER.
THERE ARE DOSSIERS WHICH ARE REALLY SECRET - UNTIL THE DAY
COMES WHEN THEY BLOW UP.
DAVIS UNQUOTE KISSINGER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, INTERVENTION, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE043264
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/CEN/CR:JGSULLIVAN:HLB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750069-0390
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750210/aaaaaiqv.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 MAY 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <08 JAN 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS ON CIA CONNECTION WITH VESCO AND IOS
TAGS: CGEN, PINT, SZ, CIA, (VESCO, ROBERT)
To: SAN JOSE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006